AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method of editing layout of a child object associated with a parent object or container displayed on a video display by a computer system, the method comprising:

detecting, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, a layout edit operation for the child object displayed on the video display by the computer system; ~~and~~

determining from the child object and the parent object whether there exists one or more parameters associated with one of the child object and the parent object; and

if a parameter limitation exists in the one or more parameters, editing the layout of the child object ~~if a parameter limitation exists for the parameter,~~ in accordance with the ~~one or more~~ parameter ~~limitations~~limitation through a method of the abstraction layer class.

2. (**Cancelled**)

3. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~2,~~ 1, wherein the determining operation further comprises:

determining a container type for the parent object or container in which the child object is displayed;

retrieving a set of properties related to the child object to be edited;

retrieving a set of properties related to the parent container in which the child object is ~~displayed~~ displayed; and

recognizing any limitations that exist within the sets of properties.

4. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 3, wherein the editing layout of the child object further ~~operation of editing~~ comprises:

determining whether the one or more parameters for the child object ~~child limitations~~ includes a maximum dimension; and

limiting adjustment of ~~the~~ a dimension of the child object to less than or equal to the maximum dimension if the maximum dimension is present.

5. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 3, wherein the editing layout of the child object further ~~editing operation comprises.~~comprises:

determining whether the one or more parameters for the child object ~~child limitations~~ includes a functional relationship between the child object and the parent object; ~~and~~

retrieving a ~~ReferenceSize~~ reference size if ~~a~~ the functional relationship exists; and

calculating new layout parameters for the child object based on the functional relationship.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 3, wherein editing the layout of the child object comprises modifying one or more properties of the child object.

7. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 3, wherein editing the layout of the child object comprises modifying one or more properties of the parent object or container.

8. (**Currently Amended**) A system for editing a layout of a child object displayed within a parent container on a video display comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled with and readable by the processor and containing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to detect a layout edit operation request for ~~a~~ the child object displayed on the video display by the computer system, send an edit operation request via an application program interface, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, to initiate layout editing of the child object, determine whether the child object has one or more parameter limitations, determine whether the parent container has one or more parameter limitations, and edit the child object layout through a method of the abstraction layer class based on the one or more parameter limitations and the ~~received~~ layout edit operation request detected.

9. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 8 further comprising the processor containing instructions, that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a child object measure helper operation and a child object ~~arrangement~~ arrange helper operation on the child object when ~~a~~ the layout edit operation request is detected.

10. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 8, wherein one or more of the ~~child~~ one or more parameter limitations includes a functional relationship of size between the child object and the parent container.

11. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 10, wherein the functional relationship is a proportional relationship between the child object and the parent container.

12. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 11, wherein editing the layout of the child object comprises maintaining the proportional relationship between the child object and the parent container.

13. (**Original**) The system of claim 8, wherein editing the child object comprises modifying one or more layout properties of the parent container.

14. (**Currently Amended**) A machine-readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for editing objects displayed on a video display by a computer system, said computer process comprising:

detecting, via an abstraction layer implemented as an instance of an abstraction layer class, a layout edit operation for a child object displayed on the video display by the computer system; ~~and~~

determining from the child object and a parent container displayed on the video display whether there exists one or more layout parameter limitations associated with one of the child object and the parent container; and

editing ~~the~~ a layout of the child object through a method of the abstraction layer class if a limitation exists, and in accordance with the one or more layout parameter limitations.

15. (**Currently Amended**) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the determining further comprises:

determining a container type for the parent ~~object or~~ container in which the child object is displayed;

retrieving a set of layout parameters related to the child object to be edited;

retrieving a set of layout parameters related to the container in which the child object is ~~displayed~~ displayed; and

recognizing any layout limitations that exist within the sets of layout parameters.

16. (**Currently Amended**) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the editing of the layout of the child object further comprises:

determining whether the one or more ~~child~~ layout parameter limitations includes a functional relationship between the child object and parent container; ~~and~~

retrieving a ~~ReferenceSize~~ reference size if a functional relationship exists; and

calculating new layout parameters for the child object based on the functional relationship and the ~~ReferenceSize~~reference size.

17. (**Cancelled**)

18. (**Currently Amended**) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~17,~~ 14, wherein the editing of the layout of the child object further comprises:

determining whether a layout limitation of the child object is a proportional relationship to the parent container and if so, maintaining the proportional relationship between the layout of the child object and the parent container.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the editing of the layout of the child object further comprises:

modifying one or more properties of the child object in a ~~child~~ measure child helper routine in the abstraction layer.

20. (**Currently Amended**) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 further comprising:

modifying one or more properties of the child object in a ~~child arrangement~~ arrange child helper routine in the abstraction layer consistent with one or more limitations in the parent container.